IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16 canceled.

17. (currently amended) An apparatus for the in-line production of flexographic printing plates by means of digital imaging, at least comprising

(A) a unit for holding digitally imageable, photopolymerizable, flexographic printing elements having a thickness of from 0,4 to 1,0 mm,

(B) a unit for the digital imaging of the flexographic printing element, which comprises at least two functional units of the same type[[,]] arranged along a moveable bar moveable in an Y-direction and optionally also in a X-direction essentially perpendicular to said Y-direction, wherein the functional units are selected from the group consisting of thermal printing heads, of IR lasers, inkjet printing heads or thermal printing heads, wherein each of the functional units produces an image in each case one part of the digitally imageable layer by moving the entire bar in the Y-direction and moving the bar or the imageable layer in the X-direction,

(C) an exposure unit,

(D) a washout unit,

(E) a drying unit,

(F) optionally an aftertreatment unit,

(G) an output unit for the flexographic printing plates obtained, and

(H) transport units for the flexographic printing elements or plates, which connect the units (A) to (G) to one another,

the units (A) to (H) being designed so that the flexographic printing elements or plates are processed in the flat state.

18. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the transport units comprise magnetic retaining apparatuses.

19. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 , which furthermore comprises a unit for preexposure of the photosensitive flexographic printing elements.

20. (previously presented) The use of an apparatus as claimed in claim 17 for the production of flexographic printing plates.

21. (previously presented) A process for the production of flexographic printing plates for newspaper printing, in which the starting material used is a photosensitive flexographic printing element having a thickness of from 0,4 to 1,0 mm comprising arranged one on top of the other at least

a flexible, metallic substrate,

a photopolymerizable layer which in turn comprises at least one elastomeric binder, ethylenically unsaturated monomers and a photoinitiator, and

a digitally imageable layer,

wherein an apparatus as claimed in claim 17 is used and the process comprises the following steps:

(a) placing of the photosensitive flexographic elements in the holding unit (A),

(b) imagewise recording on the digitally imageable layer by means of the imaging unit (B) for producing a mask on the flexographic printing element,

(c) exposure of the flexographic printing element to actinic light by means of the exposure unit ©) through the mask produced,

(d) removal of unexposed parts of the flexographic printing element and the residues of the digitally imageable layer by means of a suitable solvent or of a suitable solvent combination in the washout unit (D),

(e) drying of the washed out flexographic printing plate at from 105 to 160°C in the drying unit (E),

(f) optionally aftertreatment of the dried flexographic printing plate by means of UVA and/or UVC light and

(g) output of the finished flexographic printing plate,

the flexographic printing element or the flexographic printing plate being transported by the transport means (H) from one unit to the respective next unit and not being bent during the entire processing procedure.

22. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the flexographic printing element is furthermore

preexposed to actinic light in a step preceding (b), with the proviso that a flexographic printing element whose digitally imageable layer has a sufficient transparency to actinic light is used.

23. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the metallic substrate comprises magnetizable spring steel.

24. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the binder in the photopolymerizable layer is at least one styrene/butadiene block copolymer having a styrene content of from 20 to 50% by weight.

25. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the block copolymer has an average molecular weight M_W of from 80 000 to 150 000 g/mol.

26. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the styrene/butadiene block copolymer has a Shore A hardness of from 55 to 75.

27. previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the photopolymerizable layer furthermore comprises from 5 to 50% by weight of a plasticizer.